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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/539,439

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Hugo De Vries

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EXAMINER

JUSKA, CHERYL ANN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1794

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/08/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/539,439	Applicant(s) DE VRIES, HUGO	
	Examiner Cheryl Juska	Art Unit 1794	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 January 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed January 21, 2009, has been entered. The specification has been amended as requested. The pending claims are 1-24.
2. Said amendment is sufficient to overcome the objection to the specification as set forth in section 1 of the last Office Action (Non-Final Rejection mailed August 20, 2008).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
4. Claims 1, 2, 4-13, and 15-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,601,886 issued to Ishikawa et al. in view of US 6,338,885 issued to Prevost as set forth in section 3 of the last Office Action.
5. Claims 3 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,601,886 issued to Ishikawa et al. in view of US 6,338,885 issued to Prevost as applied to claims 1 and 12 above, and in further view of US 6,955,841 issued to Weghuis et al. as set forth in section 4 of the last Office Action.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant has not amended the claims in an attempt to overcome the prior art rejections. Rather, applicant traverses said rejection by asserting the examiner has not provided a proper

Art Unit: 1794

prima facie case of obviousness under 103 (Amendment, pages 8-9). Specifically, applicant argues that the examiner's statement that the tuft gauge and stitch density would have been obvious (i.e., citation of *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233 on page 3 of the last Office Action) is "merely conclusory and is not an 'explicit rational' as required by *KSR Int'l*" (Amendment, paragraph spanning pages 8-9). In response, it is first noted that the examiner's statement relied upon by applicant is not the entirety of the rational for the rejection. The recitation of *Aller* preceded the discussion of the teachings of Prevost, which disclosed the recited tuft gauge and stitch density of at least 10 mm (1st paragraph, page 3, last Office Action). Hence, applicant's argument is found unpersuasive.

7. Regarding the combination of Ishikawa and Prevost, applicant argues that the references do not suggest the distance between grass tufts in a single row (i.e., tuft gauge) and the distance between adjacent rows (i.e., stitch density) are substantially equal to each other, thereby producing an artificial turf having an even distribution of grass tufts (Amendment, page 9, 1st paragraph – page 12, 2nd paragraph). In response, while the art may not explicitly teach the tuft gauge and stitch density are selected to produce equivalent distances between tufts within a row and between rows, the claims are held obvious over the prior art because said prior art clearly teaches both stitch density and tuft gauge ranges within the ranges claimed by applicant (i.e., greater than 10 mm). *In re Woodruff*, 16 USPQ2d 1934 states, "The law is replete with cases in which the difference between the claimed invention and the prior art is some range or other variable within the claims....In such a situation, the applicant must show that the particular range is critical, generally by showing that the claimed range achieves unexpected results relative to the prior art range." Hence, absent a showing of criticality from applicant, the present claims are

Art Unit: 1794

obvious over the cited prior art since a skilled artisan could have modified the Ishikawa reference with the teachings of Prevost with predictable results. Additionally, one skilled in the art could have readily optimized both the stitch density and tuft gauge ranges of Prevost in order to provide a turf having a uniform surface. Therefore, applicant's arguments are found unpersuasive and the above rejections are maintained.

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

9. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheryl Juska whose telephone number is 571-272-1477. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 10am-6pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, D. Lawrence Tarazano, can

Art Unit: 1794

be reached at 571-272-1515. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

11. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Cheryl Juska/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1794

cj
April 6, 2009